

Inland Fisheries.—Freshwater fisheries continued at the high level of prosperity established in 1962 until very hot July weather caused a scarcity of ice on the prairies, a long warm fall delayed the start of ice fishing, and a fish-poisoning scare in the United States in October caused a market collapse. No Canadian fish was involved but the American market, which is the main outlet for Canadian lake fish, was almost at a standstill until the end of the year. Up to the time of this setback, expansion had continued at the same rate as in 1962. The Lake Winnipeg fishery for pickerel and sauger yielded well and whitefish were plentiful in Saskatchewan and Alberta lakes. Exports of dressed fish declined during the summer but fillet exports increased 20 p.c. in volume up to October. The American market came back strongly in January but the break had left its mark on the 1963 sales record on this side of the border.

Section 2.—Governments and the Fisheries

The British North America Act gave the Federal Government full legislative jurisdiction for the coastal and the inland fisheries of Canada and under this Act laws are made for the protection, conservation and development of the fisheries throughout the country. However, the provinces have, by agreement, assumed administrative responsibilities in varying degree. Consequently, though all the regulations governing fishing are made by the Federal Government, the work of administering the fisheries (enforcing the different laws and regulations, inspecting fish products, issuing licences, etc.) is done without duplication of staff by either federal or provincial officers, according to arrangement.

Specifically, all tidal or sea fisheries except those of the Province of Quebec are administered by the federal Department of Fisheries, and the freshwater or non-tidal fisheries, with some exceptions, are administered by the provincial departments. Quebec takes responsibility for all its fisheries including those in salt waters. Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta administer their freshwater species. In British Columbia, provincial government control extends to the freshwater forms and the Federal Government is responsible for marine and anadromous species. In Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Federal Government maintains complete control; administration of the fisheries of the National Park areas throughout Canada is the responsibility of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Federal-Provincial Conference on Fisheries Development.—The basis for a national fisheries development program was laid in Ottawa in January 1964 at the first federal-provincial ministerial conference convened to discuss Canadian fisheries. The Conference met at the invitation of the Minister of Fisheries for Canada and all provinces were represented.

Experts advised the delegates that Canada's fishery resource, if properly managed, could support a great long-term expansion of the industry. The following points were among those emphasized in the ensuing discussion of ways and means for bringing the industry to maximum efficiency and productivity while protecting fish stocks from over-exploitation: without careful management, certain valuable but vulnerable species could be seriously reduced in one season, such as lobsters in Northumberland Strait or the entire fish population of a northern lake not previously subjected to commercial fishing; pollution can change the dominant species in a lake; sport fishing must be taken into account in calculating how much exploitation a local resource can stand; the commercial possibilities of unused species should be examined as well as the possibilities of commercial fish farming, a valuable source of food in many other countries but almost unknown in Canada.

Since it is clear that if Canada is to keep abreast of new fishing and processing techniques the fishermen and plant workers must be taught to use them, broad lines were laid